in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein the at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on type of information being retrieved by user stations from said server.--

--24. Computer apparatus for allocating communications bandwidth, comprising:

a. a bus to which a plurality of user stations are connected;

b. at least one communications interface connecting said bus to a server;

in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein the at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on how fast user connections can receive information.--

--25. Computer apparatus for allocating communications bandwidth, comprising:

a. a bus to which a plurality of user stations are connected;

b. at least one communications interface connecting said bus to a server;

in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein the at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on which part of a document is being transmitted.--

--26. Computer apparatus for allocating communications bandwidth, comprising:

a. a bus to which a plurality of user stations are connected;

b. at least one communications interface connecting said bus to a server;

in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein the at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on user station identity.--

--27. Computer apparatus for allocating communications bandwidth, comprising:

a. a bus to which a plurality of user stations are connected;

b. at least one communications interface connecting said bus to a server;

in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein said at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on stored indicia indicating importance of the document being retrieved by a user station.--

--28. Computer apparatus for allocating communications bandwidth, comprising:

a. a bus to which a plurality of user stations are connected;

b. at least one communications interface connecting said bus to a server;

in which said server is configured to allocate communications bandwidth to a plurality of user stations over said communications interface based on at least one set of priorities,

wherein said at least one set of priorities comprises priorities based on the state of application processes running on said processor.--

--29. The apparatus of claim 28, in which the state of application processes comprises the foreground or background state of a process.--

--30. The apparatus of claim 28, in which the state of application processes comprises the degree to which a window in which a process is running is ready for use by a user.--

--31. A method of operating a server on a network, comprising the step of:

a. providing an element for allocating communications bandwidth that a server provides to a plurality of user stations connected to said server based on at least one set of priorities.--

--32. The method of claim 31 in which said set of priorities includes at least one of: type of information being retrieved, how fast user connections can receive information, which part of a document is being transmitted, user identity and stored indicia indicating importance of the document.--

--33. The method of claim 31 in which bandwidth is allocated to a user connection based on the ratio of priority that user connection bears to the sum of priorities of all user connections.--

--34. The method of claim 32 in which bandwidth allocation is recalculated on an event driven basis.--

--35. The method of claim 34 in which events triggering recalculation include at least one of: arrival of a new request for retrieval, finishing sending information in response to a retrieval request, cancellation of a retrieval request, detection of the inability of a user connection to use all of the bandwidth allocated to it, a change of priority and timeout of a timer.--

--36. A method of controlling communications by a process running on a processor connected to a network, comprising the step of:

a. providing an element for allocating communications bandwidth to a plurality of connections from said network to said processor based on at least one set of priorities.--

--37. The method of claim 36 in which said priorities are based on the state of application processes running on said processor.--

--38. A computer program product, comprising:

a. a memory medium;

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